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Theodore Frankel, 49, Dies; Editor of U.S.I.A. Journal

Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON. Dec. 20— Theodore Frankel, executive editor of the United States information agency's bi-monthly journal Problems of Communism, died last night of cancer at a suburban hospital. He was 49 years old.

Mr. Frankel, a native of Berlin, came to the United States in 1939. He graduated from Yeshiva College in New York city in 1943 with a degree in economics. In 1946 he was awarded a master's degree in economics. In 1946 he was awarded a master's degree in economics from Columbia University.

From 1946 to 1947, Mr. Frankel served in the Army. After completing his military service he was a freelance writer until 1948. From 1958 to 1965 he served as a research analyst and instructor with the Department of the Army and as a senior research analyst with the Library of Congress from 1965 until his appointment as executive editor of Problems of Communism in 1970.

Communism in 1970.

Surviving are his widow, Nancy, and two children, all of Kensington, Md.